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PRESS RELEASE

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Arkansas Business and Industry Leaders and the Department of Workforce Education to Team with the Oracle Corporation to Provide Top-Level Education and Training in Web-Based Technology for High School Students

The list of technology-based programs of study available to high school students through the [Department of Workforce Education's Career and Technical Education Section](#) is expanding to an even more sophisticated level with the debut of the [Oracle Internet Academy](#) curriculum.

**The announcement of the state's partnership with Oracle will be made
Wednesday, January 28, at 1:00 p.m. at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel in North
Little Rock.**

The Oracle Internet Academy is designed to prepare students for the demanding field of Internet and database technology as well as the world of business. It is a two-year, "real-world" program of study that will teach students the latest Internet technologies, database development, and Java programming skills. Students will learn these skills through hands-on labs, collaborative projects, problem solving exercises, and project management opportunities. For example, in the first semester, students will

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work in collaborative groups as consultants to analyze the needs of a business. They will assist the business in converting old, inefficient processes into streamlined data models to improve the productivity and market value of the company.

Students successfully completing the academy will have the opportunity to become an Oracle Certified Associate. They will also possess strong interview, presentation, collaboration, problem solving, resume preparation, and internship preparation skills.

Because of the significance of the academy's potential to build upon technology education at the high school level, numerous business and industry representatives will be on hand for the announcement, including members of the board of the [Arkansas Business and Education Alliance](#), representatives of local chambers of commerce, and representatives from the [Arkansas Science and Technology Authority](#).

The state's private sector is supporting the academy in hopes of increasing the number of students who will pursue technology degrees in college and remain in the state after college to work for its companies in technological fields.

Speaking at the announcement will be Matthew J. Cahill, Academy Manager, and Thyra Busch, Senior Account Manager, Oracle Corporation, San Jose, California; and Jerry B. Adams, Corporate Leader for Economic Development and Community Relations, [Acxiom Corporation](#), Conway; Dr. Steve Franks, Director of the Department of Workforce Education; and John Davidson, Deputy Director, Career and Technical Education Section, Department of Workforce Education.

Also in the audience will be over 170 key partners - the teachers, workforce education coordinators, and administrators from high schools and postsecondary education institutions who will be responsible for establishing the academies in their local high schools. Schools will be able to either integrate the Oracle Internet Academy

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into their existing career and technical education information technology course offerings or create a new program. Following the announcement, there will be sessions on how school districts will be able to fund and implement an academy and how postsecondary institutions can target academy students for college credit and continued education at the college level.

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